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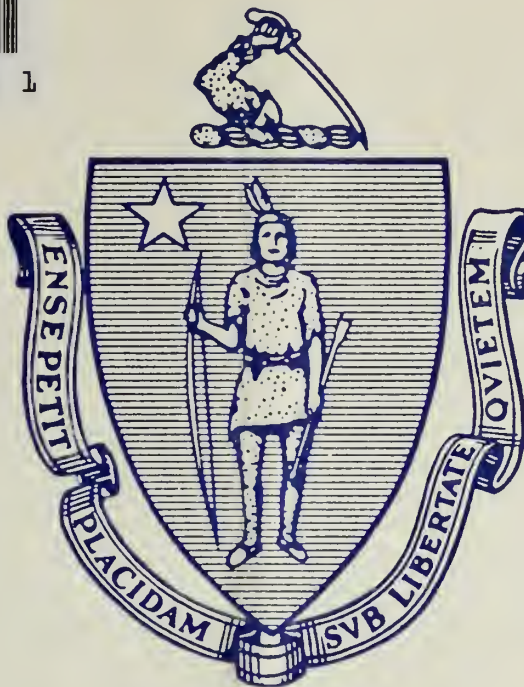
Proceedings...

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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**FIRST
GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE
ON
LIBRARIES
April 12, 1962**

Massachusetts Division of Library Extension
200 Newbury Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

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SAMPLE

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MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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John D. Kelley

Mrs. George R. Wallace

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIRST
GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON
LIBRARIES**

April 12, 1962

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Co-Sponsors:

Massachusetts Library Association

Massachusetts Library Trustees Association

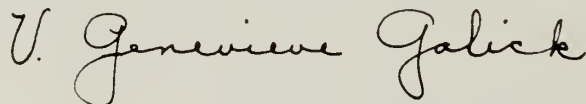
Massachusetts Committee for National Library Week

FOREWORD

The First Governor's Conference on Libraries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts brought together over five hundred and fifty librarians, library trustees, and friends of libraries for a very special event which had great educational significance and a terrific public relations value.

For the single day session, the attention of the state's educational, social service, civic and cultural leaders was focused not only on the past and present importance, functions, and achievements of libraries; but also on the tremendous opportunities and challenges of the future for libraries as unique communication institutions in our free society.

We are most grateful that Governor Volpe was so warmly receptive to the idea of his office serving as sponsor. For the good planning and execution of the Conference, we must recognize the cooperating efforts of the Massachusetts Library Association, Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, Massachusetts Committee for National Library Week, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the entire staff of the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "V. Genevieve Galick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

V. Genevieve Galick, Director

Boston, Massachusetts
June 8, 1962



HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN A. VOLPE, GOVERNOR
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

"Almighty God, on the occasion of National Library Week and Governor Volpe's Conference on Libraries, grant us wisdom to make better use of one of our most precious resources — books — for the benefit of our national progress, our own enjoyment, our enrichment, our finest kind of recreation.

Give us, too, Almighty God, the grace to draw closer to the inspired word of the Holy Books — Sacred Scripture. For the words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried by fire, purged from the earth, refined seven times.

Lastly, through my words, Almighty God, deign to bless all the gifts of this table which we are about to receive of Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Invocation by
Right Reverend Monsignor George V. Kerr
House Chaplain

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

By His Excellency

JOHN A. VOLPE

Governor

1962

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has long been in the forefront in nurturing public library service, and

WHEREAS, As never before, the welfare of the Commonwealth and the Nation depends upon an intelligent and informed citizenry, and

WHEREAS, Well developed and well used libraries can contribute toward meeting the educational, cultural, economic, and civic needs of the Commonwealth in increasing measure, and

WHEREAS, The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has given recognition to the increasingly important contribution of libraries to the future of Massachusetts and its citizens by calling the first state-wide Conference on Libraries, to be held on April 12, 1962, and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association, the Massachusetts Library Association, the National Book Council, and numerous other national and local organizations are actively focusing attention on the services, resources, and needs of our libraries to effect a better read, better informed, better educated citizenry through better use and better support of public, college, and other libraries:

Now, therefore, I, JOHN A. VOLPE, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the week of April 8 to 13, 1962, as

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

and urge that the week be signalized by public attention to the needs and potentials of libraries in the life of our community.



GIVEN at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this second day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and eighty-sixth.

By His Excellency the Governor

John A. Volpe
JOHN A. VOLPE

Kevin H. White
KEVIN H. WHITE
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



JOHN A. VOLPE
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

His Excellency
John A. Volpe
Governor
of
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
welcomes you to the
First Governor's Conference on Libraries
Thursday, April twelfth
nineteen hundred and sixty-two
twelve o'clock
Hotel Somerset
Boston, Massachusetts

R. S. V. P.

PROGRAM

Invocation	Right Reverend Monsignor George V. Kerr, House Chaplain
Toastmaster	Richard J. Sullivan, Chairman Board of Library Commissioners
Address of Welcome	His Excellency John A. Volpe, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Remarks	Dr. Owen B. Kiernan, Commissioner Massachusetts Department of Education
Presentation of Award	Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick, Director Massachusetts Division of Library Extension
Keynote Address	Dr. Franklin K. Patterson, Director Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship and Public Affairs, Tufts University

"LIBRARIES AND AN EFFECTIVE CITIZENRY"

Benediction	Right Reverend Monsignor George V. Kerr, House Chaplain
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WHICH WAY TOMORROW?

Symposium

Regional Planning for Library Service

Moderator

John A. Humphry
Secretary, Board of Library Commissioners

Panelists

Mr. Francis J. McGrath City Manager, Worcester, Massachusetts
"Problems and Responsibilities of City Government"

Mr. Elwyn E. Mariner Research Director, Massachusetts
Taxpayers' Federation
"From the Taxpayers' Viewpoint"

Mrs. V. Genevieve Galick Director, Massachusetts Division
of Library Extension
"Administrative Problems"

Mrs. David M. Systrom Library Chairman, Burlington League of
Women Voters
"Patron of a Community Library"

Mr. Milton E. Lord Director, Boston Public Library
"A Central City In a Metropolitan Area"

Mr. Henry G. Shearouse, Jr. Associate Supervisor, New York
Division of Library Extension
"New York's Regional Library Service Structure"

The following is the text from a speech
given at the
Governor's Conference on Libraries
at the Hotel Somerset, Boston
April 12, 1962

by

His Excellency John A. Volpe, Governor
of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Welcome all of you to the Governor's Conference on Libraries, the first conference of its kind ever to be held in our great Commonwealth. Your ready response to my invitation to meet here in Boston today as a part of the 1962 celebration of National Library Week is most gratifying.

Your presence here demonstrates that there is a lively and continuing awareness of the cultural and educational heritage of which we in Massachusetts can be so justly and intensely proud, a heritage which has long extended into the field of libraries and library services.

It was here in Massachusetts that the first college library was established, at Harvard College more than three hundred years ago. It was here that the first tax-supported children's library was set up, in the Robbins Library of Arlington, more than one hundred years ago.

Not content to rest on those and other laurels, librarians in Massachusetts have continued to move forward, with the Springfield Library, forty years ago, being the first to offer a circulating record collection to its patrons.

As a distinguished Englishman of letters has said so well: "Libraries are not made, they grow. Good as it is to inherit a library, it is better to collect one."

Well, we have inherited a great library system here in Massachusetts, but we are continuing to collect an even greater one, keeping pace with the times by offering not only books and periodicals, but ever-expanding audio-visual departments and enlarging the scope of service.

As Governor, I am particularly proud to note that our State was the first to recognize its responsibilities to local libraries when in 1890 the State Library Extension Agency was organized.

The State's interest in libraries has not lagged with the years, as witness the library act of last year which provides funds for local libraries on a per capita basis and authorizes development of regional libraries.

The Act, provides up to one million dollars for support of our libraries, but more important than money, I think, is the stipulation that libraries receiving such aid be open, free of charge, to all residents of the Commonwealth.

In these days of high taxes, such an expenditure may be criticized by some, but to them I would recall the words of Sir William Osler, the distinguished physician and teacher who wrote once to a friend:

"Money invested in a library gives much better returns than mining stock."

It is almost trite, but nevertheless true, to say that a library, particularly a free, public library, is a lode of treasure which any or all may mine with profit.

America, lacking the European tradition of great private or royal libraries, has indeed profited from the development and growth of its free, public libraries.

The man who perhaps best described the value of the free, public library was our own Benjamin Franklin, in a statement which has become a classic:

"Libraries have improved the general conversation of the Americans, made common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made through the colonies in defense of their freedom."

Libraries have continued that function down through the years and are continuing it into the space age now at hand.

In addition to serving as centers for communication, information, education, re-education and continuing education, libraries are a symbol of our freedom, keeping channels of information clear and insisting that all sides of public issues be made available.

Not long ago, a national magazine had a long and interesting article about the great cities of the United States, their progress and their problems.

I thought it significant that to illustrate one of the advantages of living in a great city the editors used not a picture of a great skyscraper, or a neon-lighted thoroughfare, but a photograph of the Reading Room of a great public library.

How many of us here in Boston have spent so many happy hours in Bates Hall of that magnificent library down in Copley Square, as youngsters first visiting the big city, as students pursuing our education, as adults seeking to expand our field of knowledge?

From such libraries comes the leadership on which a democracy depends so much, be it the town of Mount Washington with its thirty-four souls, or a great metropolis such as this where we are gathered today.

Good schools and public libraries are basic to a total effective education program. They must be developed and supported with the imagination and the means adequate to the needs of this new era.

I trust that at this conference you will discover new or improved ways and means of furthering that development and support so that the libraries of our State will continue to grow and flourish.

Thank you.

Address to the Governor's Conference on Libraries

Libraries and an Effective Citizenry

by

Franklin Patterson, Ph.D.

Lincoln Filene Professor of Citizenship
and Public Affairs
Director, The Lincoln Filene Center for Citizenship
and Public Affairs
Tufts University, Medford 55, Massachusetts

The world of libraries and books is most of all a world of people. It is invested with the humbling drama of people wise enough to husband a heritage of culture, daring enough to seek knowledge, human enough to look for comedy and tragedy in books that give life perspective, foolish enough always to be grasping for a universe of discourse that may, surprisingly, not be out of one's reach after all. Remembrance quickly summons up the small vignettes and long vistas of this magic for all of us who have shared in the world of libraries and books.

For me, as for you, libraries have a variety of meanings, many of them deeply personal. One of these concerns my knowledge of Dr. John J. Mahoney's long service on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; as the founder of our Center at Tufts University, Dr. Mahoney profoundly recognized the relationship between good citizens and their libraries. I remember, too, with gratitude for her patience — which was very probably mixed with quiet amusement — the branch librarian who let me lug home the plays of Shakespeare when I was in the third grade. She was willing to let me at least try! And I suppose that is the heart of the matter when it comes to the role of libraries in a free society. They let the individual try for the knowledge, insight or enjoyment he wants.

Ever since then, libraries have seemed like an easy second home to me. So much so that as a young man I found it the best of things to pay court to a beautiful young librarian and — wonder of wonders — persuade her to marry me! Through my wife's family, especially through her aunt Helen E. Haines, my ties to the library world became stronger still. Miss Haines, who edited the *Library Journal* from 1892 until 1908 and whose later teaching at Columbia and elsewhere resulted in the masterful guide to the art of book selection entitled *Living With Books*, was a truly great librarian. These associations, together with graduate study that opened before me the treasures of such libraries as the Huntington and the friendship of younger bookmen — librarians like

Lawrence Clark Powell, made libraries an inseparable part of my life, for which I am grateful.

Far better than I, Hawthorne Daniel has expressed this kind of gratitude in the epigraph of his new book, *Public Libraries for Everyone*.

Daniel dedicates his book

To the
Librarians of America
Who have done so much
for the rest of us
who have done so
little in return

My purpose here today is not to reminisce, nor to try further to express an affectionate respect and regard for the world of libraries and books, but to speak as constructively as I can "for the rest of us," who *could* do so much more in return. The record clearly shows what libraries have done in the public interest. The question before us is this: how can the public interest of a free citizenry serve itself by serving libraries better than it does now?

There are clues to the answer to this question in the history of our libraries and in their present situation. The history of American libraries inevitably underlines for us the integral role they have played in the rise of an informed democratic society.

Libraries, in one form or another, began in this country almost as soon as the colonists came. In 1618, Thomas Burgrave of Virginia bequeathed books to Henrico College, which later became the College of William and Mary. In 1629, the Massachusetts Bay Company authorized a shipment of books to be used by its colonists, and one man — perhaps our first librarian — was designated as custodian of the books. In 1730, the first of our subscription libraries was begun in Philadelphia

by Benjamin Franklin. Fifty years later writing in his *Autobiography*, Franklin commented that

this was the mother of all the North American subscription libraries . . . It is become a great thing in itself, and continually increasing. These libraries have improved the general conversation of Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries, and perhaps have contributed in some degree to the stand so generally made throughout the colonies in defense of their privileges.

In 1803 municipal authorities in Salisbury, Connecticut, contributed active financial assistance to their local library, and a new pattern of public support began to emerge. Thirty years later what was perhaps the first fully tax supported public library was established in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The pattern of public library support as a major aspect of American life did not come clearly into focus, however, until mid-century. Then, in 1852, the city of Boston founded the Boston Public Library, the first of the great public libraries of the United States, whose character has influenced the whole development of the public library movement in the past 110 years. The right to establish and maintain a public library had been granted to the city of Boston by the Massachusetts General Court through legislation passed in 1848. Mrs. Genevieve Galick, the distinguished Director of the Massachusetts Division of Library Extension, has described the 1848 legislation as "probably the beginning of all such legislation in any part of the world." Following this special enactment for Boston there was "a clamor for equivalent treatment from a number of the Commonwealth's cities and towns." As a result, in 1851 the Massachusetts Legislature passed a general law authorizing cities and towns to establish and maintain public libraries.

Thereafter, in this Commonwealth and elsewhere, the library movement in America gathered momentum, and the prime movers were librarians themselves. In 1853 a conference of 80 librarians and bibliographers met in New York, adopting a resolution to form a permanent librarians' association. Nothing concrete was done about this resolution, however, for twenty-three years—and then the action was initiated by a young Massachusetts man! This man was Melvil Dewey of the Amherst College class of 1874. As acting librarian of that institution, Dewey urged a new committee into existence. This group planned a national conference of librarians to coincide with the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876, on the 100th anniversary of American independence. On the third day of the 1876 conference, a resolution was adopted forming the American Library Association.

When the ALA was formally incorporated under Massachusetts law three years later, six of its seven charter members were Massachusetts librarians!

With such active leadership and support in the Commonwealth it is not surprising that ensuing decades witnessed a rapid development and flowering of the public library movement in Massachusetts. By 1890, 248 of the Commonwealth's cities and towns had free public libraries, with 175 under municipal control. This achievement is set in sharp relief by the fact that, in the same year outside of Massachusetts there were only 220 tax-supported libraries in the whole country, and 29 states were completely without public libraries. In 1890 Massachusetts achieved another "first" by establishing a Free Public Library Commission, and providing for the nation's first program of state financial aid to local libraries.

Nearly thirty years later, in 1919, the Commission became the Division of Public Libraries in the State Department of Education.* The leadership given by this Division has helped keep Massachusetts on the pioneering frontier of library development, through the creation of four State Regional Library Centers which provide supplementary book and advisory services (including bookmobiles) to smaller communities of the Commonwealth, through certification procedures, and through other means.

Today, the cause of the public library in Massachusetts is bolstered by the Massachusetts Library Association (formed in 1890), by the State Division, by devoted library trustees and friends at the local level, and by the Massachusetts Library Trustee Association. This latter group, established in 1952, has included such tireless workers for better libraries as Mrs. George R. Wallace, Stacy B. Southworth, and Channing L. Bete, citizens with a deep commitment which they demonstrate in action.

In addition to these developments, in 1956 the Congress of the United States passed a Library Services Act, the result of ten years of hard campaigning by Carl Milam and other leaders of the ALA. This Act authorized funds for the extension and development of public library service to rural areas. The law of 1956 authorized the Federal government to give a maximum of \$7,500,000 annually for five years for the extension of library services. The Act called for a grant-in-aid program, with each state and/or local government to allocate funds which would then be matched by the Federal government. In 1960 the Library Services Act was amended to extend its duration until 1966.

* The Division of Public Libraries was redesignated in 1952 as the Division of Library Extension.

Also in 1960 a forward step in state aid to libraries was taken by the Massachusetts legislature. While the Commonwealth in 1959 had paid out \$54,600,000 to cities and towns as reimbursement for public school costs, not a cent had been paid out in direct support of public libraries. This situation was modified, if not satisfactorily, by Chapter 760 of the Acts of the General Court of 1960, providing a sum of \$768,000 for the expenses of public libraries with the approval of the Board of Library Commissioners.

Thus, Massachusetts has had an impressive history of public library development and leadership, back-stopped by devoted trustees and professional librarians, by local people, by the state legislature and the governor, and by Federal legislation. By 1956, for example, per capita expenditure for public libraries in Massachusetts was \$2.10 compared to 19¢ per capita in West Virginia. In 1958, Massachusetts cities and towns spent a total of \$14,140,312.87 on their public libraries. Out of 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth there were only four small settlements with a total population of 1000 persons which did not have a public library—and these were served by state operated bookmobiles!

Some would argue that such a record of achievement—which could be amplified in great detail—is a ground for satisfaction or even a certain complacency. I argue otherwise, for two reasons. One reason is that the present picture, when looked at in depth, is simply not as rosy as the figures I have presented may suggest. The other reason is that the challenges and opportunities of the modern public library to serve the free citizens of this free and revolutionary country of ours in the explosive years that lie immediately ahead are infinitely greater than the resources we have as yet provided. These two reasons should give us, as citizens who will get only the kind of libraries we have the foresight to aspire to, some genuine cause for present concern and vigorous action.

Let's look for a moment at the first reason—which suggests that the present picture is not as rosy as it may seem. Here are a few of the less happy facts about recent library conditions even in this fortunate state. In 1956, for example, more than half of the Commonwealth's public libraries were operating on budgets of less than \$6000, and were open to the public less than 20 hours per week. Likewise, the high per capita expenditure for public library support in Massachusetts is apt, as are all averages, to be grossly misleading. The state per capita average in 1958, for instance, was \$2.92. But this average concealed the fact that in five communities with pop-

ulations over 100,000 the per capita figure for public library service was \$4.47, while for the 277 communities under 10,000 in population the per capita expenditure for libraries was \$1.86. The 1958 state-wide expenditures of over \$14,000,000 included heavy maintenance and operating costs which directly reflected the difficulties of using buildings and equipment which are too often obsolete. Thirty-two per cent of the \$14,000,000 total went for operating expenses, with salaries (56%) and books (only 12%) suffering as a result. In the same year, 1958, over 60% of the Commonwealth's public libraries did not meet minimum standards of public library service based on the ALA's 1956 sensible, conservative recommendations. Only 47% of our public libraries, as recently as 1960, were meeting the state standard of minimum hours of opening or service. And in 1960, 84% of our state's public libraries serving a population of 10,000 or over failed to meet the recommended salary rate for Chief Librarian. Salaries generally were not adequate for a state proud of its library heritage. Twenty-four library schools in the U. S. in 1958 placed their graduates in professional positions that averaged from a low of \$4143 to a high of \$5407—yet not half a dozen Massachusetts libraries could afford to recruit beginning professionals at even the low average figure of \$4143. In 1958, only 14% of the state's libraries paid their head librarians a salary of \$4683 or over, which was then the nation-wide average starting salary for professional librarians.

This somewhat dimmer view of where we stand could be intensified and made more specific. It is not unique to Massachusetts, but reflects national conditions that weaken the role of the public library in the present. In this Commonwealth, the less pleasant facts stand out more harshly because of the magnificent past history against which they must be compared. The facts touched on here could be added to in terms of shortening hours of service, decaying and obsolescent buildings, book collections that are too little, too old, and too tired.

What is important, however, is to remember the strengths that are here to be built upon and to address ourselves to the second, the major reason why the American citizenry of the last decades of the 20th century cannot afford to be complacent about the status of their libraries. Here I would hope that we could turn directly to certain specific challenges and opportunities that face the modern public library today and tomorrow. These are the citizen's challenges, the citizen's opportunities, the citizen's responsibilities, that come home to each of us if we believe that public libraries must have a vital role in the future of a free society.

Here are some of the challenges and opportunities that we must meet, as I see them.

1. *Our first challenge and opportunity is for a new dedication to the free public library as an indispensable resource and armament for a free society in a world struggling to be free and at peace.*

This dedication requires a new vision of the part to be played by free public libraries in a world in turmoil. It requires boldness and imagination and a virile response beyond anything that libraries have had to provide before. And truly it can be provided only by ourselves as lay citizens working with professional librarians. Thus I welcome the inspired policy statement of the American Library Trustee Association adopted in Cleveland in 1961, in whose authorship Mrs. George R. Wallace shared. This statement said in part that:

The United States today is leader of the free nations, determined to remain free and to help obtain freedom and self-determination for all the people in the world. The American Library Trustee Association will place increased emphasis on the reading and discussion of periodicals, and the use of visual and audio aids, for a greater knowledge and understanding of world affairs and world people. We will sponsor projects which encourage use of the basic informational materials in our public libraries to make us a nation more informed and more understanding. We will urge all Americans to join with us in using the public library as an institution that has a distinctive and basic contribution to make in man's development towards freedom.

2. *A second challenge we face is to develop a balanced and strengthened fiscal policy of public support of public libraries in line with present realities.*

From a practical standpoint adequate public library support should be financed by a federal-state-local aid program that reflects the several interests concerned and their relative capability to provide public funds on a formula that is realistic in modern times. Relative tax capability has changed drastically in the past 60 years. In 1902 total tax revenues in the United States were in the following proportions: 19% were Federal; 14% were state; and

67% were local. In 1962, the situation is almost reversed; of the total tax revenues this year 75% will be Federal; 15% will be state; and 10% will be local.

From this, let's look back for a moment at the library support situation in recent years here in Massachusetts. In 1958, for example, local funds accounted for 98.6% of the support of public libraries, the Commonwealth provided less than 1%, and the Federal government supplied less than 1%. The ALA and other authoritative sources suggest that a realistic formula would provide a distribution of library support in the following proportions: 60% local; 25% state; and 15% Federal. I respect this recommendation and speak in its behalf. Local government in this state particularly is almost mortally overtaxed at present. The tax power of the state government could and should be much more used than our legislators have chosen it to be. The tax power of the Federal government is amply evident to all of us — especially three days before April 15! Given these considerations, a balanced and strengthened fiscal policy of public support for public libraries should be quite remarkably different from what we now have or what has been recommended. The \$7,500,000 per year allowed by the National Library Services Act is a ridiculously small fraction of the support our Federal government should return to the states for library support. On a per capita basis *this* comes out at a little over 4¢ of library aid per year nation-wide. A Federal government that in 1960 spent a total budget of over 77 billion dollars should be able to invest more than 1 ten thousandth of its public money in its public libraries. What we have at present is token Federal support of public libraries. What we need is *real* support at a level commensurate with the national interest that is at stake. Certainly, Federal support nation-wide at a 15% level is not unrealistic in terms of the demands that the library must meet now and in the future. Of equal concern is that the state's share of direct library support should be materially increased and as immediately as possible. Chapter 760 of the Massachusetts laws of 1960 was a step, but only a small one, in this direction. Certainly, the whole tax structure of the Commonwealth needs serious revision to relieve local government whose only tax base is real property and to strengthen the tax revenues of the state. My own conviction is that this is a need of the most urgent importance. Further prolonging its solution will mean a critical deterioration of public services such as

those that public libraries provide. State support of public libraries at a 25% level is essential in this Commonwealth in my judgment and is one of the outstanding justifications for needed new state revenue sources such as the sales tax.

3. *A third challenge and opportunity, closely related to the question of fiscal policy, involves the strengthening of professional library staff, the furnishing of capital improvements, and the general upgrading of present operation.*

The chief yardstick that applies here, sensibly and well, is the statement of public library standards promulgated by the ALA in its 90 page 1956 report, which included 70 guiding principles and about 200 implementing standards. A valuable state adaptation is to be found in the 1958 set of standards developed cooperatively by the MLA, the MLTA, and the Board of Library Commissioners. Against these yardsticks, the public libraries of Massachusetts can measure their current staffing, operation, and need for capital improvement to advantage. To cite one example only, the ALA public library standards of 1956 state that there should be at least 100,000 volumes of currently-useful printed matter in a library system, for reference purposes, general reading, and study. As recently as 1960, only 28 of the state's cities and towns—fewer than 8%—could meet this standard.

In terms of capital improvements, buildings for the world of libraries and books, the Commonwealth has serious needs which are there for the layman to see. One thinks of the beautiful, notable exceptions. For example, I think of the splendid new and useful library which has been built in Medford, a demonstration that the power of library-minded women citizens should never be underestimated, even by city councilmen! I think, too, of the remarkable and attractive Youth Library which has been added to the system in Fitchburg. But one also remembers the run-down, the archaic, the monstrous excuses for library buildings which are to be found. And one thinks of the suburban libraries, like the lovely one in my own town, where the buildings are attractive and the staff delightful, but where the explosion of people and knowledge have made more of everything needed—more space, more stacks, more reading room, and more staff. Our libraries, as they are, are running as fast as they can just to stand still—and many are slipping steadily backward. Here in professional staff, capital improvements,

and general operation, it is the citizen's challenge again.

4. *A fourth area of challenge and opportunity which lies before our public libraries today is that of innovation; innovation in concept, in services, and in technology to meet the requirements that an effective citizenry may rightly expect of their public libraries in the unfolding future.*

The revolutionary age we live in, the tremendous upsurge of our population, the spectacular increase in knowledge available and knowledge needed, and the rapid emergence of a marvelous new technology of communication, combine to make *innovation for the future* the most exciting frontier of library life today.

In connection with the new technology that is becoming available for use by libraries, I am most impressed by the pioneering work of the Council on Library Resources, which was established in 1956 by an initial grant of the Ford Foundation in the amount of \$5,000,000. With distinguished educational, scientific, and library personnel, the Council has opened up great new vistas of possibility for us in enlarging the services that libraries can reasonably provide. As yet, these are only vistas, often obscured for the non-technical person by such terms as "information storage and retrieval" and other lingo of the IBM set. But these are the vistas into which the future will bring us, and if we are creative and wise they will include innumerable and sometimes radical improvements in the services that libraries of all kinds, including public libraries, can provide. At present impressive, practical strides are being made by the library profession, assisted by the Council on Library Resources, in such matters as the following:

- (1. *improvement of the means of bibliographic access*; e.g. developing new coordination of cataloging on an international basis; registering microtexts; mechanizing, bibliographic operations by automatic camera and electronic processes.
- (2. *improvement of the means of physical access to materials*; e.g. planning new procedures of acquisition; improving our ways of using library space; developing rapid processes for copying materials; and exploring a great new variety of ways that individuals can more easily use micro-copy material with inexpensive, portable hand-readers.

- (3. *improvement of the administrative bases of library work*; e.g. planning better, more usable library buildings; developing more efficient procedures for library administration and finance; improving methods of training staff; and, most important, exploring ways that inter-library cooperation may be expedited by administrative arrangements and new technology.

The work of the Council and of such important ventures as the Center for Documentation and Communication Research of the School of Library Science at Western Reserve University adds a vital stimulus to the process of innovation. American libraries at their best are not standing still or trying to survive at a 1910 level. They are responding to new pressures with resilience and to new techniques with creativity.

It is now altogether possible that, as Florinell F. Morton, the current president of ALA, suggests, our own communities can achieve the equivalent resources of a million volume library. This would occur in part by linking one's local library through a rapidly operating pool to all the other libraries of the city or region. Here the regional center program of Massachusetts manifestly has been far-sighted in its planning. It would occur, too, through the miracle of miniaturization—the inexpensive micro-copying of reference collections, periodicals, and other materials—through the use of electronic computers to help locate the material one wants in the wink of an eye,—and through automated communications systems of the kind that Western Union and other agencies even now can supply.

Innovations that are less electronic and technical will be equally important, perhaps much more so from a human point of view. These will build upon what many fine libraries are doing today, to open their resources and make them more useful to a wide diversity of individuals. Special facilities for youth and young adults (as in Fitchburg); more comfortable and attractive reading rooms; special facilities for private study, listening, and research; a less formal, more inviting atmosphere; better facilities for group meetings, films, concerts, and lectures—these and many more innovations have been already tested by forward-looking trustees and librarians. Such emerging patterns need wide, swift extension; they need variation and new elements. They are a significant part of the frontier of innovation. The most

important of all innovations in my judgment, however, is not really new at all. But it is crucially necessary to reassert it in policy and reaffirm it in practice. It involves our conception of the true future role of the public library. This role, as ancient as the oldest library, is thrust upon us anew by the circumstances of a society in which the individual citizen is confronted increasingly by centralized media of mass communication. For me, no one has stated this role more persuasively than Dan Lacy of the American Bookpublishers Council, who observed at Simmons College last September that:

Of all the communications media the library is the only one which instead of assembling an audience of thousands or millions for one speaker, assembles hundreds of thousands of sources of information for one reader.

Of all our instruments of communication, it is the only one whose boss is the individual reader who wants to learn rather than the speaker who is looking for an audience. For this reason, in a society where overwhelming dangers come from massiveness and uniformity, this one communication institution has a unique importance that it has never had before in our society.

With this I would rest what I have to say about libraries, except for a closing word.

The public library has a proud history of contribution to the citizens of this republic and this Commonwealth. Massachusetts, through devoted trustees and professional librarians, has given distinguished leadership to the public library movement. Beginnings—but only faint ones—have been made towards federal and state aid. The present library scene represents achievement of a high order, but running deeply through it are needs, difficulties, and problems of a serious order which must concern us all as citizens. The future is crowded with magnificent opportunities and challenges—to place the public library at the center of a free society struggling for the survival of its freedom; to achieve a realistic, adequate balance of public financial support for our public libraries; to shore up and improve existing operations; and to forge a revolution of innovations which will insure that the library will be the truly effective, unique institution it should be to serve the interests and needs of the individual who seeks knowledge, insight, and discourse.

Whether this honorable past is carried forward, whether present problems are resolved, whether future opportunities are fulfilled depends, I think, more on lay citizens than on librarians. It depends on some hard facts which a citizenry that is genuinely effective must deal with. These facts are that our nation needs its public libraries more now than ever before; that having adequate libraries depends on public policy and public money as well as on creative minds and willing

hands; that greatly strengthened aid from the Federal and state levels is imperative. Combined, these facts add up to the wanted nail in the shoe of a horse — the small component without which a great enterprise may fail. Through the Governor's leadership in this Conference, through legislators, and through civic action by each of us, we can here begin to deal with these hard facts and bend them to the public weal.

"We give thanks, Almighty God, for the bread that we have broken together at this First Library Luncheon and for the words of wisdom that we have heard about the aspirations and needs of Library work and personnel as well as the urgency of a sense of dedication to advance the cause of both. We give thanks, too, for Your ever enduring admonition that not by bread alone does man live but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. For the Word of God is living and more

piercing than any two-edged sword: and reaches into the depths of the soul to the marrow, and discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Be strengthened, therefore, in the Lord and in the power of His Word. For His Word is truth. Amen."

Benediction by
Right Reverend Monsignor George V. Kerr
House Chaplain

PICTURE SECTION

The photographs that were taken at the luncheon by John E. Sheahan, Professional Photographer, are reproduced here.



Among the Head Table Guests... Governor John A. Volpe with Commissioners Owen B. Kiernan and Richard J. Sullivan



Mirrored Elegance...



...Blest With That Charm



Proud Recipients — Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award



S.R.O. Affair



Co-Sponsors



...Converse With Ease



Symposium — Which Way Tomorrow?



"Read and Watch Your World Grow" .. National Library Week, 1962

